

**For Immediate Release**  
**April 6, 2011****Contact:** NR 50-11-G  
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## **Free Small Business Fair in Torrance on April 12, 2011**

Chairman Jerome E. Horton and Vice Chair Michelle Steel of the Board of Equalization, along with the City of Torrance, today announced a free Small Business Fair on Tuesday, April 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Torrance Cultural Center.

**Event:** Free Small Business Fair in Torrance**Where:** Torrance Cultural Arts Center  
Ken Miller Recreation Center  
3330 Civic Center Drive  
Torrance, California 90503  
(Free Parking)**When:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011  
9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (*Check-in at 8:30 a.m.*)**Register:** Online at [www.boe.ca.gov/sutax/sbf.htm](http://www.boe.ca.gov/sutax/sbf.htm) or register by phone at 888-847-9652

This free small business fair is geared to assist new business owners, entrepreneurs considering starting a business, small business owners, professionals currently operating a business who have questions about state or federal tax laws, and individuals who want to develop their business knowledge. Topics to be presented include basic sales and use tax issues, improving business through better records, forms of ownership, employee or independent contractor information, small business administration loans and services, and developing business and marketing plans. Representatives from the BOE, Franchise Tax Board, Employment Development Department, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Small Business Administration, and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Lead Center- Los Angeles Regional Network will be available at the fair to assist attendees.

*Editor's note: please listen to the 15-second and 30-second audio PSA audio public service announcements for this event: [www.boe.ca.gov/news/Torrance\\_PSA\\_15sec.mp3](http://www.boe.ca.gov/news/Torrance_PSA_15sec.mp3) and [www.boe.ca.gov/news/Torrance\\_PSA\\_30sec.mp3](http://www.boe.ca.gov/news/Torrance_PSA_30sec.mp3).*

For more information on this seminar, visit: [www.boe.ca.gov/sutax/sbf.htm](http://www.boe.ca.gov/sutax/sbf.htm). Additional information regarding other helpful in-person classes offered by BOE is available online at: [www.boe.ca.gov/info/VirtualSeminars/seminars\\_inperson.htm](http://www.boe.ca.gov/info/VirtualSeminars/seminars_inperson.htm). The BOE also offers easy to use, convenient, 24-hour accessible online seminars on a variety of tax and fee topics at: [www.boe.ca.gov/info/VirtualSeminars/seminars\\_online.htm](http://www.boe.ca.gov/info/VirtualSeminars/seminars_online.htm).

Elected in 2010, Chairman Jerome E. Horton is the Fourth District Member of the California State Board of Equalization, representing more than 8.5 million residents in Los Angeles County. He is also the BOE Legislative Committee chairman. He is the first African American to serve on the BOE since its inception in 1879 and the third African American constitutional officer in California's history. Horton previously served as an Assembly Member of the California State Assembly from 2000-2006.

Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006 and re-elected in 2010, Michelle Steel serves as *Southern California's elected taxpayer advocate*. In December 2007, Steel discovered the Board of Equalization had delayed the return of millions of dollars in security deposits owed to California businesses. Procedures were changed due to Steel's decisive leadership. Following her investigation, the tax agency refunded tax security deposits to over 5,500 small businesses.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$48 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit [www.taxes.ca.gov](http://www.taxes.ca.gov).

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